IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A method for providing an interactive program guide, comprising:

    providing a plurality of transport streams[[;]] , wherein

    each transport stream in said plurality comprises at least one elementary stream representing a respective interactive program guide (IPG) page, wherein each IPG page has associated with it a respective guide portion and a common video portion; and [[wherein,]]

    grouping elementary streams associated with related IPG pages [[are grouped]] within a common transport stream.

2.   (Original) A method for providing an interactive program guide, the method comprising:

    forming a first transport stream including video packets with a first set of packet identifiers; and

    forming a second transport stream including video packets with a second set of packet identifiers,

    where the first set of packet identifiers and the second set of packet identifiers include a common packet identifier.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

    each of said IPG pages has associated with it a first plurality of slices representing said common video portion and a second plurality of slices representing said respective guide portion;

    said method further comprising:

    encoding only once said slices associated with said common video portion of said IPG pages;

encoding each respective plurality of slices associated with said

respective guide portions of said IPG pages; and

associating, for each IPG page, said encoded common video portion

slices and respective encoded guide portion slices.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing for each of a predetermined number of IPG pages in a sequence

of IPG pages one video frame for time incremented intra-coding and remaining video

frames for time-incremented predictive coding.

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

dividing each IPG page representative video frame to be provided into

slices.

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

separately encoding slices associated with said common video portion of

said IPG page and slices associated with said respective guide portions of said IPG

pages.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein each of said

encoded guide portions of said IPG pages is adapted to be combined with said encoded

common video portion of said IPG pages to form thereby a respective sequence of

image frames.

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